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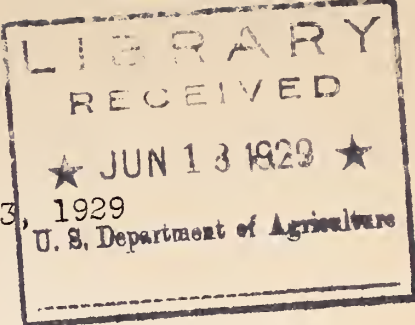
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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Bureau of Agricultural Economics
Washington

June 13, 1929
U. S. Department of Agriculture

F.S.
AL-33

FOREIGN NEWS ON ALMONDS



ALMOND PROSPECTS IN SPAIN AND ITALY

The almond crops of Spain and Italy are said to have suffered some damage from unfavorable weather conditions in the early part of the 1929 season and prospects in the different regions are varied, according to reports forwarded to the Foreign Service of the Bureau of Agricultural Economics by Agricultural Commissioner Foley at London, and by Consul Austin Brady at Malaga. Reports from contacts in the various regions are given below.

Spain

The almond crop of the Spanish mainland promises to be fair, Mr. Foley reports, though rather below normal. The crop on the island of Majorca has suffered considerably from damp weather and some estimates place the crop at about 25 per cent of that of last year. The Ibiza crop of hardshell almonds is also very small, but the crop of softshells promises to be abundant. For the 3 years 1925-1927 total Spanish production averaged 104,000 short tons of unshelled almonds. Reliable estimates regarding carryover of old crop are difficult to obtain. The carryover in Majorca may be about 20,000 bales of 220 pounds each. Old crop Majorca almonds were being offered at about \$28.24 per 100 pounds the beginning of May. No operations in new crop nuts had been reported. On the mainland the crop is practically exhausted. The carryover of almonds in the shell, softshell variety, will be practically nil.

In the Malaga district the 1929 almond crops are expected to be below those of 1928, according to a report by Consul Brady. Lack of rain during the winter months and cold weather in the higher altitudes retarded the flowering. High winds caused some injury during the flowering period. Conditions the first part of May indicated a production of Jordan almonds about 20 to 30 per cent less than in the preceding year with a similar decrease in the production of Valencia almonds. The Jordan crop of 1928 was estimated to be about 1,964 short tons. A normal crop in this area is considered to be about 1,540 short tons of Jordans and 2,750 short tons of Valencias.

It is believed that several hundred tons of shelled almonds of the 1928 crop were still on hand at Malaga at the beginning of May. The almonds are reported out of producers' hands and are held by exporting firms. Present stocks consist mostly of Jordan almonds. There is no almond exchange at this point and no official information on production, receipts and stocks is available, according to Consul Brady. Exports of shelled almonds from Malaga in the nine months ending April 30, 1929 were

8,935,000 pounds of which 3,871,000 went to Great Britain, 2,902,000 to the United States and 2,162,000 to other countries. Exports of shelled almonds from Almeria during the same period were 7,055,000 pounds. The average value f.o.b. Malaga for Jordan almonds shipped to the United States in the nine months ended April 30, 1929 was 40 cents per pound and the average price of Valencia almonds $37\frac{1}{2}$ cents a pound. According to Consul Brady the difference between both the buying and the selling prices of Jordan and Valencia almonds has been less this season than for many years. No information is available on the price of almonds of the new 1929 crop.

Italy

Crop prospects in the Bari section are normal and the frost reported in April did not materially affect the crop, Mr. Foley reports. Granted favorable conditions during May, the crop was expected to be about 250,000 bales of 220 pounds each of shelled almonds against about 130,000 bales last year. An average crop in Bari is placed at 250,000-300,000 bales of shelled almonds. Old crop stocks in Apulia are estimated at about 30,000 bales. In spite of the favorable outlook, reliable dealers were reluctant to enter into forward engagements the early part of May because of the heavy losses sustained during the last two seasons. Quotations the beginning of May for Bari's, prompt shipment, were \$27.93 per 100 pounds gross f.o.b. Bari.

Blossoming was abundant throughout Sicily this year. With the beginning of May, warm weather set in and prospects became more favorable, but during April some damage occurred in the region along the seashore from the strong sirocco winds. The damage was felt especially in the Avola district, province of Syracuse. It was still too early for an accurate estimate of production but persons who had visited all the almond producing provinces of the island placed the possible production at 150,000 to 165,000 bales of shelled nuts compared with a production reported by Mr. Foley of 75,000 bales in 1928 and 180,000 bales in 1927. Official Italian estimates placed production in 1928 at 142,000 bales and 163,000 bales in 1927. Rough estimates place the carryover at 6,000 to 7,000 bales in the Avola district and 25,000 to 30,000 bales in other districts.

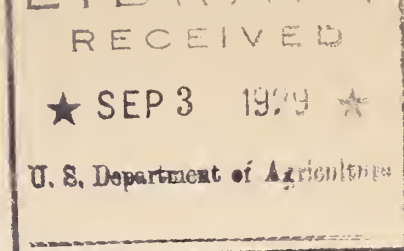
Quotations early in May were as follows:

	<u>Old crop</u>	<u>New crop</u>
Avolas	\$51.05	-
Palma Girgenti	\$30.09	\$28.46

per 100 pounds f.o.b. Catania in bags of 220 pounds gross, each.

9
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F.S.
A-34

August 28, 1929

FOREIGN NEWS ON ALMONDS

ALMOND CROPS IN SPAIN AND ITALY IN 1929

The 1929 almond crop in the Mediterranean Basin is expected to be generally short, due to unfavorable weather conditions, according to a cable to the Foreign Service of the Bureau of Agricultural Economics from Agricultural Commissioner Foley at London. The crop is probably larger, however, than that of 1928. Production in the important regions of Italy is above that of last year with the exception of the Avola crop of Sicily, and is almost normal. The Spanish crop is generally below normal. Estimates and statistics received for the various regions are as follows:

Italy - The 1929 almond crop in Bari Italy is estimated at 250,000 bales of 220 pounds each, according to Mr. Foley. Production in 1928 was about 130,000 bales. A normal crop in Bari is considered about 250,000 to 300,000 bales. The carryover of old crop is reported to be 15,000 to 20,000 bales. Growers offerings to London on August 23 for Prima Bari, new crop September-October shipment c & f London were \$28.24 per 100 pounds. Corresponding quotations for 1928 are not available, but the market at Bari during the second half of August 1928 showed a lively demand from abroad, causing sharp advances in prices, and according to a report of September 12, 1928, quotations the second week of September were around \$36.93 per 100 pounds for prompt shipment c & f London. In Sicily, Palma Girgenti almonds are expected to produce between 140,000 and 160,000 bales of 220 pounds each. Carryover is estimated at 20,000 bales. The production of Avolas, the finest grade of almonds grown in Sicily, is very short or about 5,000 bales, compared with a normal crop of 20,000 to 25,000 bales, carryover of old stock is believed to be about 7,000 bales. The crop in Sicily last year consisted of approximately 50,000 bales of Palma Girgenti and 25,000 to 30,000 bales of Avolas. Quotations on new crop Palma Girgenti on August 23 for September-October delivery c & f London were \$28.79 per 100 pounds. Quotations on August 23 last year were \$36.66 per 100 pounds.

Spain - Not more than half of a normal crop or approximately 25,000 to 30,000 bales of 220 pounds each is expected in the Balearic Islands for 1929. The carryover is placed at 12,000 bales. Offerings to London on August 23 were quoted as follows: Mallorca Selected, prompt, c & f London \$31.72 per 100 pounds, Selected new crop, October delivery, c & f London \$30.09 per 100 pounds. The crop of Malaga is estimated by the trade and by Consul Brady at 35,000 bales of 220 pounds each. A normal crop in this district is 39,000 bales. The commercial estimate of the production of Alicante and Valencia is 50,000 bales

while Consul Codoner reports the crop of Alicante alone to be 84,000 bales. Carryover in these districts is light. Growers offerings to London on August 23 were: Valencia, new crop, September shipment c & f London, 3 crown, \$34.76 per 100 pounds, 4 crowns \$35.85 per 100 pounds. Quotations in this market on August 17, 1928 were reported by a reliable exporter at \$37.80 per 100 pounds for 3 crown c & f London.

Jordan quotations on August 23 as reported by Mr. Foley were \$37.48 to \$44.54 per 100 pounds according to sizes, September shipment, c & f London. On August 8, 1928, 3 crown Jordans were quoted at \$42.31 per 100 pounds c & f London. Quotations August 23, 1929 for Alicante were \$36.50 to \$40.84 per 100 pounds c & f September shipment according to quality. New crop Mogador nuts were \$27.16 per 100 pounds c & f London.

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